

BLM Coos Bay District Office

Lease/Serial/Case file No. N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Sumner 2003 Tailhold Request

Location of Proposed Action: T. 26 S., R. 12 W., Sec. 4

Applicant: Moore Mill Co.

Conformance With Applicable Land Use Plan: This proposed action is subject to the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995); which is in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and its Record of Decision (Interagency, 1994). This plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan's terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1601.5.

Remarks: The Proposed Action is in compliance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995); hereby incorporated by reference.

Need for Proposed Action: Moore Mill Co. has requested authorization to tailhold on BLM land adjacent to a harvest unit on private lands. As an adjacent owner, BLM must either approve or deny their request. Appropriate mitigation measures may be a condition of use.

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant has scheduled harvest operations of 14 acres in the SE ¼ of Sec. 4 of T. 27 S., R. 14 W. (see attached map). Moore Mill proposes to use 4 live trees and several stumps for tailholds on BLM land adjacent to the harvest area.

#### Environmental Impacts to Critical Elements of the Human Environment:

<u>Critical Element</u>	<u>Affected</u>		<u>Critical Element</u>	<u>Affected</u>	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality	—	<u>X</u>	T & E Species	—	<u>X</u>
ACECs	—	<u>X</u>	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	—	<u>X</u>
Cultural Resources	—	<u>X</u>	Water Quality	—	<u>X</u>
Farmlands, Prime/Unique	—	<u>X</u>	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	—	<u>X</u>
Floodplains	—	<u>X</u>	Wild & Scenic Rivers	—	<u>X</u>
Nat. Amer. Rel. Concerns	—	<u>X</u>	Wilderness	—	<u>X</u>

Description of Impacts to Specific Elements of the Human Environment: The proposed tailholds are located in the Riparian Reserve land use allocation. The tailhold trees will be protected from damage by placing limbs or small hardwood stems between the bark and the skyline cable or with the use of tree straps. The live trees proposed for use are second growth conifer approximately 60 to 80 years old. The stumps are located in non-commercial conifer reproduction. Harvest operations do not depend on approval of the request; however, there will be less impacts to soil and water resources through the use of BLM tail trees since suspension of logs in the harvest area will be increased. There will be no measurable impacts to soil or water resources on BLM lands through the use of tailholds. Conifer regeneration may be damaged when raising and lowering the cable during logging operations. Residual trees located on the along the creek may be also be line whipped; however, due to the wide spacing of corridors, the impacts will hardly be noticeable. If these line whipped trees would subsequently die they would not currently be a loss of value to the government as they are located within the Riparian Reserve. If not sold and removed they would help meet RMP goals to provide snag habitat for cavity nesting species.

There are no known northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet nest sites within the vicinity where the skyline would be located on BLM land. Harvest operations are expected to begin in November of 2003 and will be completed within a few weeks.

Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts: Completely re-spool the skyline when changing yarding corridors. Protect tailhold trees from damage through the use of tree straps or by placing large limbs or small hardwood stems between the bark and the skyline. Avoid raising and lowering the skyline to reduce damage to the residual trees and regeneration on BLM lands. If trees are damaged within the Riparian Reserves, they will contribute to future wildlife habitat for cavity nesting species. Residual impacts on BLM land would consist of possible reduction in stocking in the BLM reproduction unit.

Preparers/reviewers:	Jon Menten	Forest Management Specialist
	Dave Sherman	Area Silviculturist
	Kip Wright	Wildlife Biologist
	Aimee Hoefs	Fisheries Biologist

Date: October 24, 2003

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#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD.

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to authorize the use of Federal land as described in the Description of the Proposed Action section with the mitigation measures identified below.

#### Mitigation Measures:

Completely respool the skyline when changing yarding corridors.

Protect tailhold trees from damage through the use of tree straps or by placing large limbs or small hardwood stems between the bark and the skyline.

Avoid raising and lowering the skyline to reduce damage to the residual trees and regeneration on BLM lands.

Umpqua Field Manager

Date

Bryon Woods  
Moore Mill Company  
P.O. Box 277  
Bandon, OR 97411

Dear Mr. Woods,

This letter is in response to your request dated October 21, 2003, regarding the use tailholds on BLM land in Section 4 of T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Sumner 2003. Use of government land for tailholds is authorized providing you apply the following conditions:

Completely re-spool the skyline when changing yarding corridors.

Avoid raising and lowering the skyline to reduce damage to the residual trees and regeneration on BLM lands.

Protect trees from damage through the use of tree straps or by placing large limbs or small hardwood stems between the bark and the skyline cable.

If you anticipate problems in meeting these conditions, we will be available to meet with you on the site to discuss options that will meet our concern to protect the existing stand while allowing for a feasible timber harvest operation. If it becomes necessary to fell government timber to conduct safe harvest operations or if trees belonging to the government are damaged beyond recovery in the course of yarding operations we request that you contact this office regarding disposition of the trees. If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please contact Jon Menten at 751-4232, at the Coos Bay District Office.

Sincerely,

Umpqua Field Manager

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Bureau of Land Management  
Coos Bay District  
1300 Airport Lane  
North Bend, Oregon 97459-2000

5400

**Project Inspection Report**

Project Name: Sumner Tailhold Request  
Project Location: T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Sec. 4  
BLM Photo No:  
Applicant:: Bryon Woods  
Moore Mill Co.  
P. O. Box 277  
Bandon, OR 97411

Date:

Remarks: